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LU, Jiuahuai [US/US]; 4200 Cartesian Circle, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274 (US). **LIM, Chong, Soon** [SG/SG]; Blk 842, Sims Ave., #07-760, 400842 Singapore (SG). **CHEN, Tao** [CN/US]; 2408 Sunbright Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 (US).

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(74) Agent: **PRICE, Joseph, W.**; Snell & Wilmer LLP, 600 Anton Boulevard, Suite 1400, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (US).

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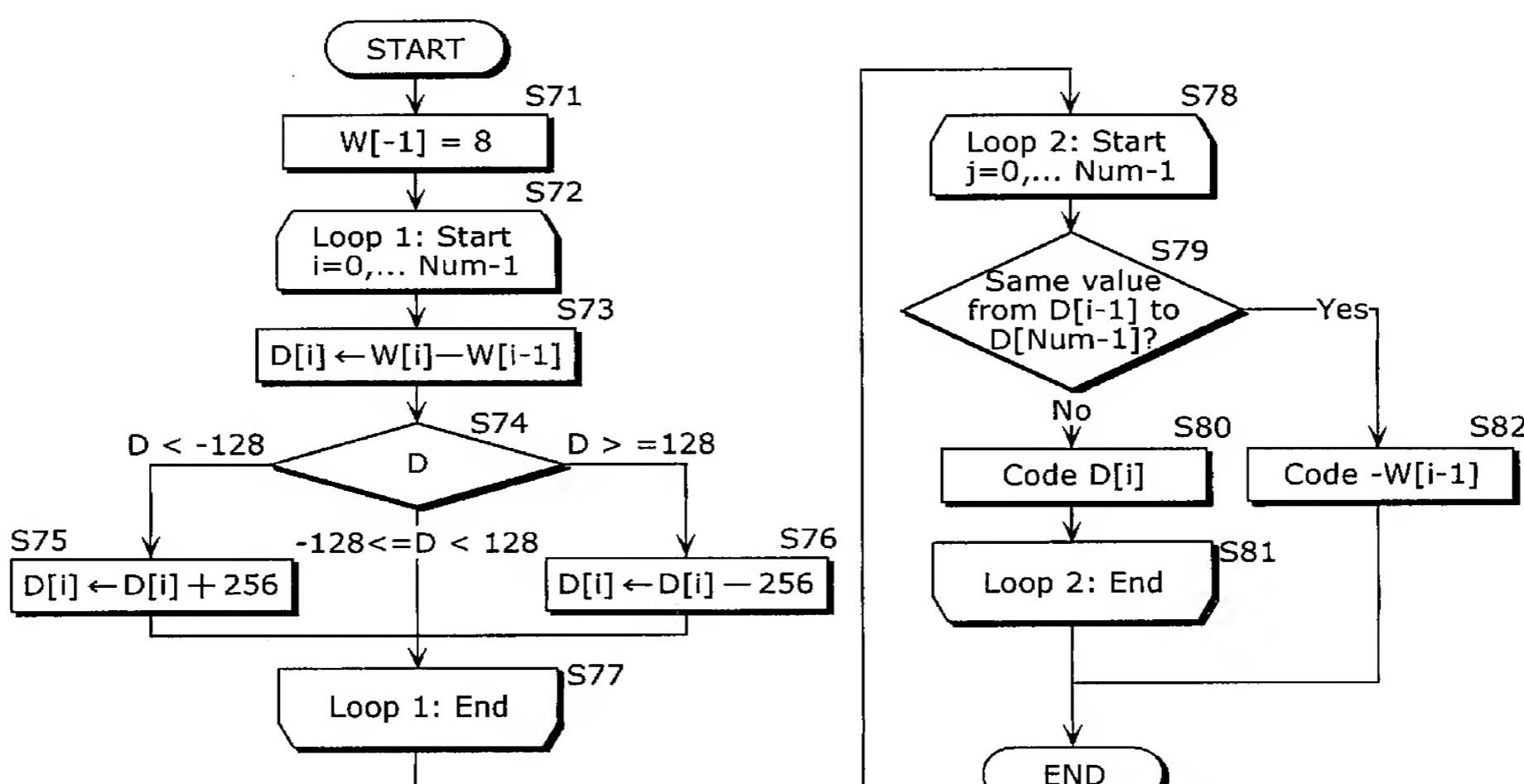
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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.** [JP/JP]; 1006 Oaza Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka 571-8501 (JP).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **KADONO, Shinya** [JP/JP]; 8-3-2-203, Atagoyama, Nishinomiya-shi, 662-0871 Hyogo (JP). **KASHIWAGI, Yoshiichiro** [JP/US]; 179 West Palm Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007 (US).

(54) Title: PICTURE CODING METHOD, PICTURE DECODING METHOD, PICTURE CODING APPARATUS, PICTURE DECODING APPARATUS, AND PROGRAM THEREOF



(57) Abstract: The picture coding method according to the present invention is a picture coding method for coding a picture on a block-by-block basis through orthogonal transformation (Fig. 3, T) and quantization (Fig. 3, Q), and coding a quantization matrix (Fig. 2) that is used to derive quantization steps for frequencies of orthogonal transformation coefficients, the method comprising: calculating a difference value between each of frequency components included in the quantization matrix (Fig. 2) and a predetermined value corresponding to said each of the frequency components; and coding the difference value into a variable length code (Fig. 3, VLC), wherein a code length of the variable length code is shorter as the difference value is smaller, or equal to a code length of a neighboring difference value of said difference value (Fig. 4).

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